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MEETING AGENDA OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Thursday, December 21, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street - 12th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or griset@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG, in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

DOC 130386 #v1

Agenda
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
December 21, 2006
SCAG Offices
San Bernardino A-B Conference Room

Page #

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or another item, but within the purview of this Task Force, must notify staff to the Task Force prior to the meeting. At the discretion of the Chair public comments may be limited to three minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the September 21, 2006 meeting will be distributed at the meeting.

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Restoring the Salton Sea Ecosystem: A Context for Planning Alternatives and Policy Choices 3

The California Department of Water Resources recently released a draft programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) on possible alternatives for restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem. This report responds to the Legislature's directive to the Resources Agency to bring forward a variety of approaches that properly address habitat, water quality and air quality priorities. John Scott, a member of the Water Resources Management Group at Metropolitan Water District (MWD), will review the PEIR alternatives within the larger context of existing regional agreements and the long-term reliability of water supplies in the SCAG region.

4.2 Climate Change and Water Management in California 5

The implications of climate change for water management in California are far reaching. John Andrews, Chief of Special Planning Projects in the California Department of Water Resources, will explain the range of these impacts and the challenges they present to California's future water policy and infrastructure.

4.3 The Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 7

A regionally-developed Plan with an assortment of local projects has been submitted for consideration and funding by the California Department of Water Resources. This effort represents an initial effort to create an integrated approach for obtaining state water bond funding under Proposition 50. Hector Bordas, Principal Civil Engineer with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (and Department of Public Works) will brief the Task Force on the proposed Plan, as well as continuing efforts to develop an integrated governance framework for

4.3 The Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (continued)

making watersheds in the Los Angeles region more competitive in the quest for needed state funding.

4.4 Orange County's Surface Water Quality Program **11**

Larry McKenney, Manager of Watershed & Coastal Resources for Orange County, will brief the Task Force on the County's innovative strategy for improving surface water quality within the County's three sub-watersheds.

4.5 After Passage of the Water Bonds **14**

Following statewide passage of two water-related bond measures (1E has $4.1 billion and Prop 84 has $5.4 billion), the Legislature will soon begin work on the enabling legislation needed for allocation of these funds. Kathy Cole, Legislative Representative for MWD in the capital, will describe the ingredients of this legislative process, the bond provisions of special concern for southern California, the new legislative leadership on water affairs, as well as the timing of these issues within a new legislative calendar. Dennis Majors, Engineering Program Manager at MWD, will discuss current studies that model the effects of earthquakes and flooding on the Delta and emergency strategies for preventing serious water quality impacts on Southern California following a natural calamity.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next Task Force meeting will be held on February 15, 2007 or at another time designated by the Task Force.

Lunch is provided by
SCAG

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

December 21, 2006

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Restoring the Salton Sea Ecosystem: A Context for Planning Alternatives and Policy Choices***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

In response to a legislative directive, the Secretary for Resources is charged with recommending a preferred alternative for restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem. This directive is a response to concerns about the rising salinity of the Sea and the impacts this trend is having on fish and migratory wildlife. Associated with this concern is the water transfers from the Imperial Irrigation District in the Imperial Valley to the San Diego County Water Authority. These transfers are being implemented in accordance with a schedule of farm land water conservation actions and fallowing. The transfers would substantially reduce the irrigation drainage that replenishes the Sea, thereby accelerate the rise in salinity and cause the Sea's elevation to decline. To allow time for the development of a restoration program the Legislature and the State Water Resources Control Board required that reduced drainage to the Sea be offset for an interim period that ends in 2017.

As a preliminary to selection of a preferred alternative by the Secretary for Resources, the California Department of Water Resources recently released for public comment a draft programmatic environmental impact report on eight action alternatives for restoration of the Sea. The Draft PEIR also describes two "no-action" scenarios. These alternatives are described in the PEIR Executive Summary.

The capital costs of the alternatives range from $800 million up to $5.9 billion. Estimated corresponding annual operation and maintenance costs range from $48 million to $149 million.

As the Task Force considers these significant ecosystem planning issues, it is important to keep these issues informed by a complete regional policy context. This context includes the very complex Quantification Settlement Agreement and its nearly 30 related agreements, a multi-faceted compromise among the Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, and Metropolitan Water District concerning the apportionment of California rights in Colorado River water.

SCAG participated in the founding of the Salton Sea Authority, a joint powers entity that has brought together two county governments, two water districts and one Indian tribe. The Authority was formed to work with California state agencies, federal agencies, and the Republic of Mexico to develop programs that would continue beneficial use of the Salton Sea. In the joint powers agreement, "beneficial use" includes the primary purpose of the Sea as a depository for agricultural drainage,

storm water and wastewater flows; for protection of endangered species, fisheries and waterfowl; and for recreational purposes.

The Authority has been an industrious advocate for one of the action alternatives (#7) and desires the lead role in any restoration enterprise. The Authority's planning efforts have included financing proposals that seek to raise financing with the capture of tax increments from future development around a restored Sea. Some stakeholders consider commercial and residential development around the Sea with concern, considering the potentially adverse impacts it would have on the habitat aspects of a restoration effort.

Consistent with the QSA and related agreements, federal and state law, Salton Sea restoration is to be accomplished without increased dependence on the Colorado River. Nonetheless, the interaction of water demands for ecosystem restoration and for municipal water supplies throughout southern California makes the pending policy choices about the Salton Sea a matter of great interest to a growing SCAG region with growing water demands.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

December 21, 2006

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Climate Change and Water Management in California***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The issue of climate change has become a priority public issue in California. Researchers are studying the many facets of climate change and the related carbon emissions and human activities that contribute to it. State government has begun to act by creating policy and programs to counteract adverse climate trends and protect the state's public health, quality of life and economic strength.

Climate change brings with it many challenges to water management in California. Currently, most of California's precipitation falls in the northern part of the state during the winter while the greatest demand for water comes from users in the southern part of the state during the spring and summer. A vast network of man-made reservoirs and aqueducts capture and transport water throughout the state from northern California rivers and the Colorado River.

Climate Change and the Key Role of Sierra Nevada Snowpack: The current distribution system relies on Sierra Nevada mountain snowpack to supply water during the dry spring and summer months. Rising temperatures, potentially compounded by decreases in precipitation, could severely reduce spring snowpack, increasing the risk of summer water shortages. If heat-trapping emissions continue unabated, more precipitation will fall as rain instead of snow. The snow that does fall will melt earlier, reducing the Sierra Nevada spring snowpack by as much as 70 to 90 percent.

The loss of snowpack will depend in part on future precipitation patterns which are uncertain. Even under wetter climate projections, however, the loss of snowpack would create water supply management problems, hamper hydropower generation, and nearly eliminate skiing and other snow-related recreational activities. If global warming emissions are significantly curbed and temperature increases are kept in the lower warming range, snowpack losses are expected to be only half as large as those expected if temperatures were to rise to the higher warming range.

Climate Change and Water Supplies: Decreasing snowmelt and spring stream flows coupled with increasing demand for water resulting from both a growing population and hotter climate could lead to increasing water shortages. By the end of the century, if temperatures rise to the medium warming range and precipitation decreases, late spring stream flow could decline by up to 30 percent. At the same time, agricultural areas would be impacted with California farmers losing as much as 25 percent of those water supplies. Water supplies would also be at risk from rising sea levels and with saltwater's potential degrading effects on estuaries, wetlands, and groundwater aquifers.

Climate Change and Water Management: Coping with the most severe consequences of global warming would require major changes in water management and allocation systems. As more winter precipitation falls as rain instead of snow, it will be important to find a successful balance between the need to fill constructed reservoirs for water supply and the need to maintain reservoir space for winter flood control. Without the reservoir equivalence of the snowpack in the Nevada Sierra, additional reservoir capacity would be needed to capture flood flows that during the "snowpack months" would have been otherwise met agricultural and domestic demands. These storage facilities would, no doubt, be subject to intense environmental scrutiny and, eventually, would come only with high project costs.

Climate Change and the Water/Energy Connection: Higher temperatures will likely increase electricity demand due to higher air conditioning use. Even without population increase, a temperature rise into the higher warming range through the remainder of the century could increase annual electricity demand by as much as 20 percent. At the same time, diminished snow melt flowing through dams will decrease the potential for hydropower production which now comprises about 15 percent of California's in-state electricity production. If temperatures rise to the medium warming range and precipitation decreases by 10 to 20 percent, hydropower production may be reduced by up to 30 percent.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

December 21, 2006

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Project Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***The Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct staff to schedule a briefing for the Regional Council on integrated water management planning in the SCAG region.

BACKGROUND:

The Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is an initial blueprint for new intergovernmental cooperation to manage water resources in five sub-watersheds of Los Angeles and small parts of Ventura and Orange Counties (see below). This initiative is a response to provisions in Proposition 50 that provide state water bond funding to "integrated regional water management plans". This measure has given rise to a new policy environment in which state funding flows to programs and projects that are proposed by collaborating entities rather than to projects from rival entities that are competing with each other for funding in the same watershed. These sub-watersheds are about 2,200 square miles and house about nine million residents.

This effort has been developed around a selection of projects that utilize multiple strategies resulting in multiple benefits. Proposition 50 guidelines favor projects that improve water supply reliability and the long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards, eliminate or reduce pollution in impaired water and sensitive habitat areas, plan and implement multipurpose flood control programs, and bring drinking water and water quality projects to underserved disadvantaged communities.

The most challenging aspect of this effort is the work required to plan and create program integration between local agencies and interest groups working together across jurisdictional boundaries. With this kind of approach, individual agencies' efforts are combined in order to leverage resources and meet multiple water resource needs at the same time. As an example, water supply, water quality, and habitat projects might be combined with a flood control project in a manner that benefits a much larger area than only the original jurisdiction. The result is a multi-objective approach that can multiply the benefits of any individual agency's single project.

The Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Region's has been developed within the following framework:

- Each sub-region has a steering committee which serves as the sub-regional decision making-body with input from a broad stakeholder group.

- A Leadership Committee provides overall guidance to the steering committees and the region-wide planning effort.

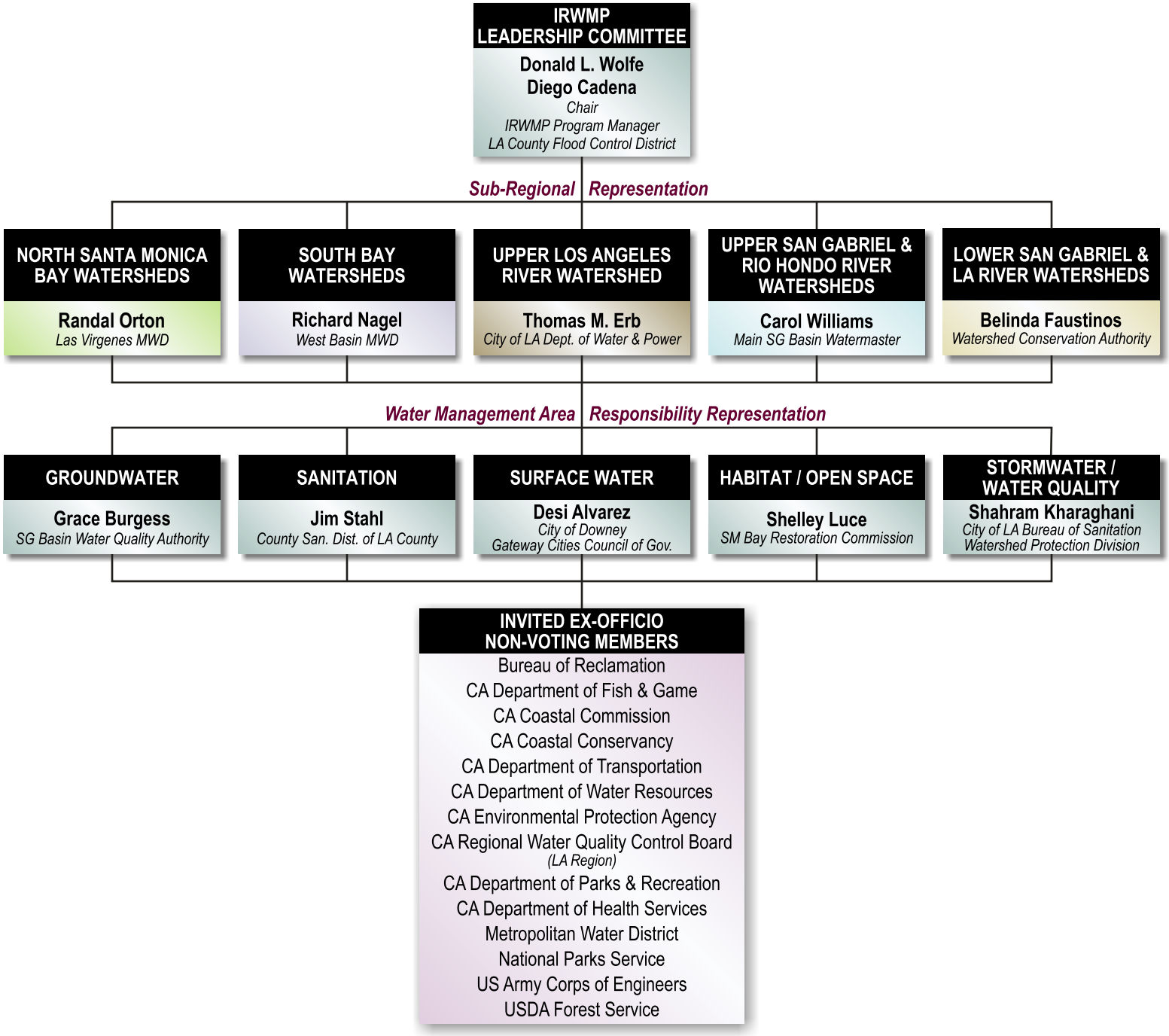
- The Leadership Committee is comprised of eleven members consisting of the Chair of each Sub-regional Steering Committee (five members) and a representative of each of the five broad water management strategies. The eleventh member is the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, which acts as the Chair of the Leadership Committee (see chart below).

The overall Program Manager for the IRWMP planning effort is the Los Angles County Flood Control District. The District is also the recipient of grants for the planning effort and responsible for managing all aspects of the grants. West Basin Municipal Water District has the fiscal and accounting responsibilities for the non-grant funds for the planning effort and for paying consultants that have been hired to facilitate the planning effort. The Plan details are available at http://lawaterplan.org/.

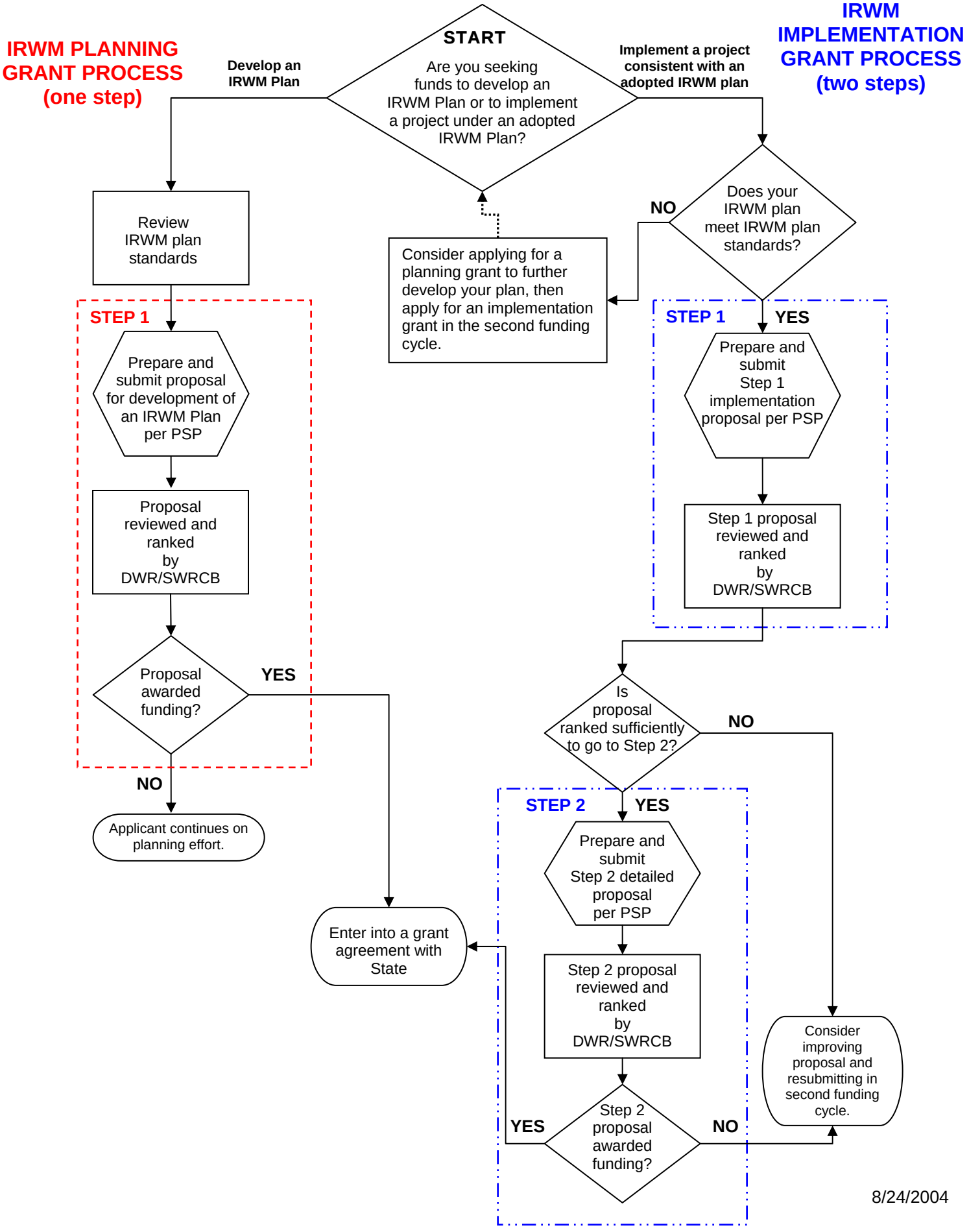
The development of the proposed plan has been funded with a $1.5 million grant from Proposition 50, Chapter 8, administered by the State Department of Water Resources. Other local governments and agencies have supplemented these funds with additional contributions. (The funding process is described in the flow chart below.)

Recently, the Region was notified that $25 million in project funding will be approved by the state in January, 2007 for the 13 projects in the Regional plan. These projects include: Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project, from the City of Calabasas; Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Studies and Marshland Enhancement Studies from the County Sanitation Districts; Pacoima Wash Greenway Project from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the City of San Fernando; Southeast Water Reliability and Large Landscape Conservation projects from Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts; Wilmington Drain Restoration, North Atwater Creek Restoration and South Los Angeles Wetlands Park projects from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation; Invasive Weed Control project from the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council; Habitat Restoration in Solstice Creek by the National Park Services-Santa Monica Mountains NRA; Urban Runoff and Native Flow Restoration by the City of Westlake and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; and Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement project from the Flood Control District.

Hector Bordas, Principal Civil Engineer with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (and Department of Public Works) will brief the Task Force on the proposed Plan, as well as continuing efforts to develop an integrated governance framework for making watersheds in the greater Los Angeles region more competitive in the quest for needed state and other project funding.


IRWMP LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
Donald L. Wolfe
Diego Cadena
Chair
IRWMP Program Manager
LA County Flood Control District
Sub-Regional Representation
NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WATERSHEDS
Randal Orton
Las Virgenes MWD
SOUTH BAY WATERSHEDS
Richard Nagel
West Basin MWD
UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED
Thomas M. Erb
City of LA Dept. of Water & Power
UPPER SAN GABRIEL & RIO HONDO RIVER WATERSHEDS
Carol Williams
Main SG Basin Watermaster
LOWER SAN GABRIEL & LA RIVER WATERSHEDS
Belinda Faustinos
Watershed Conservation Authority
Water Management Area Responsibility Representation
GROUNDWATER
Grace Burgess
SG Basin Water Quality Authority
SANITATION
Jim Stahl
County San. Dist. of LA County
SURFACE WATER
Desi Alvarez
City of Downey
Gateway Cities Council of Gov.
HABITAT / OPEN SPACE
Shelley Luce
SM Bay Restoration Commission
STORMWATER / WATER QUALITY
Shahram Kharaghani
City of LA Bureau of Sanitation
Watershed Protection Division
INVITED EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Bureau of Reclamation
CA Department of Fish & Game
CA Coastal Commission
CA Coastal Conservancy
CA Department of Transportation
CA Department of Water Resources
CA Environmental Protection Agency
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board
(LA Region)
CA Department of Parks & Recreation
CA Department of Health Services
Metropolitan Water District
National Parks Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
USDA Forest Service

IRWM Grant Process Flow Chart



8/24/2004

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

December 21, 2006

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Project Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Orange County's Surface Water Quality Program***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Orange County approach to water quality and water resources management historically was very similar to other urban areas in Southern California. Specifically, water supply and wastewater issues were addressed by city water departments or by special districts, flood risk management was addressed largely by a regional flood control agency, and urban runoff issues were addressed, as the municipal stormwater permits came into place, by cities and counties as a part either of their public works function or the public health agency. Issues were being addressed, but there usually was no coordinated approach to resources management or to capital improvement planning, and each agency wrote separate plans and used distinct funding sources.

Regionalism crept into the approach to water resources in several ways. In some instances, special districts were created as regional overlays for planning or to build and operate regional infrastructure. Special districts also proved adept at created joint powers agencies to provide a regional perspective. Municipal stormwater permits were issued as areawide permits that forced cities in major metropolitan areas at least to talk to each other, if not collaborate on regional projects. Total Maximum Daily Loads increased the pressure on dischargers to work together to develop and fund implementation plans. Some agencies eagerly bought in to the watershed approach and facilitated stakeholder groups to develop multi-purpose watershed plans. Others municipalities found themselves directed by stormwater permit provisions to coordinate with their watershed neighbors in implementing water quality best management practices. Most recently, the State has created financial incentives for regions to develop integrated regional water management plans.

Orange County started four years ago to learn the lessons of these different approaches to regional cooperation and come up with a strategy for an effective regional water quality and water resources approach. The County led a group of city, special district, and NGO representatives to consensus on an approach, which the County Board of Supervisors approved, to divide the County into three Watershed Management Areas. Each area groups a number of smaller watersheds that share natural and cultural characteristics into an area that seems to be the best scale for truly integrated planning and implementation.

The WMAs are being created through interagency agreements. No new layers of government, no new agencies, not even joint powers agencies, no new elected boards, are being created. This reflects not only a conservative political outlook, but also the spirit of the watershed approach and the municipal

stormwater permits, that we are the problem, so we in our present jobs need to address the problem. The WMAs will bring together the efforts of cities, water and sewer districts, business interests, public interest groups, academia, and regulatory agencies, to achieve goals described in a comprehensive plan, with coordinated implementation.

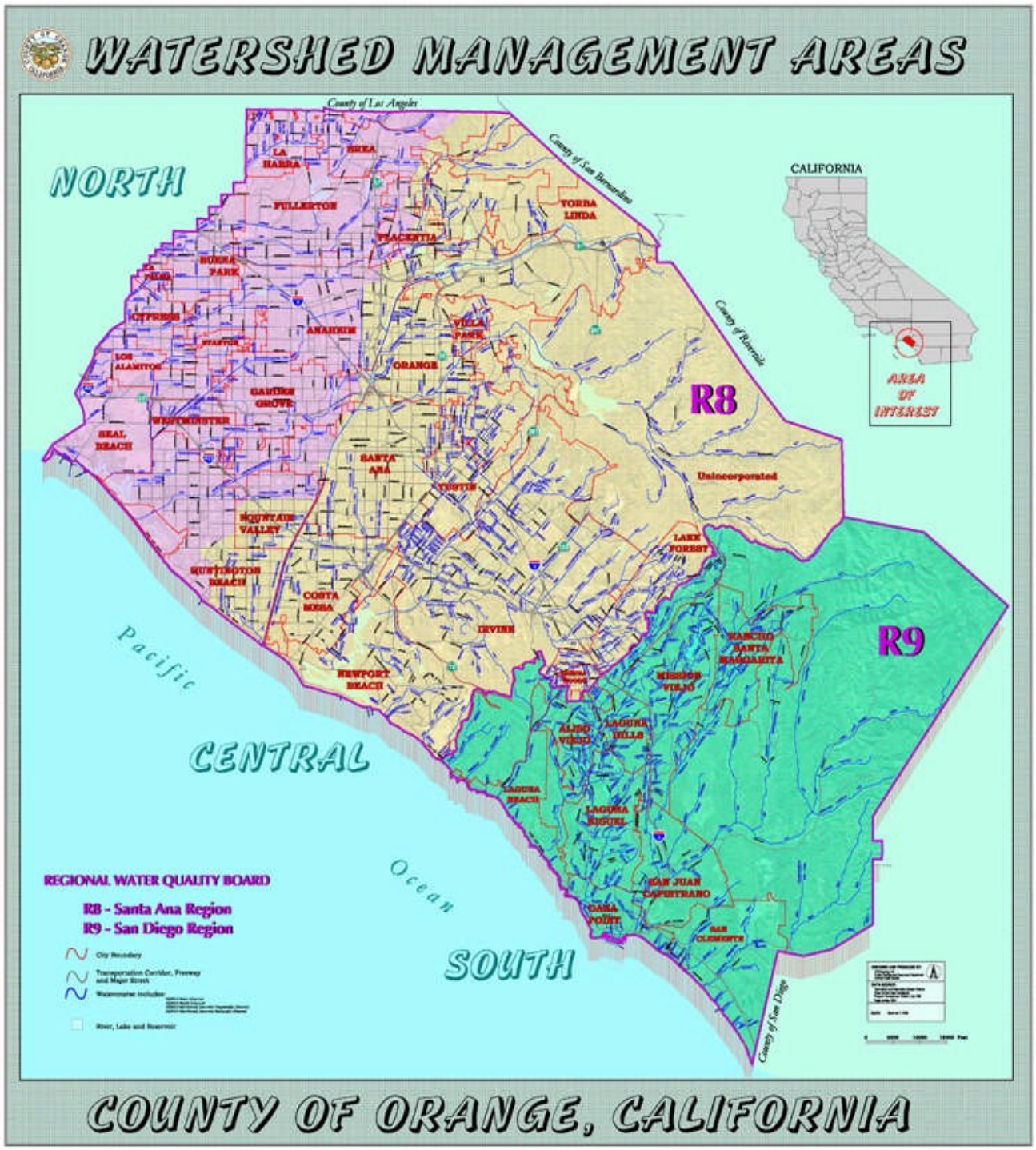
The WMAs will be governed ultimately by the County Board of Supervisors. Each WMA will create an Executive Committee of elected officials representing agency participants and comparable high level representatives of private interests. Each WMA will also create a Management Committee of staff and general stakeholders. Each WMA will produce an integrated capital projects plan for all water resources projects, including water supply, wastewater, flood management, stormwater and urban runoff, aquatic habitat, and recreation. These plans will prioritize all projects within the region across programs. Each WMA's capital projects plan be carried to the boards of all participating entities for approval. The expectation is that the Executive Committee will help establish consensus and will champion the approval of the plan at the individual agencies. Each WMA will also address regional operations and maintenance activities and costs, and will develop an annual work plan and shared-cost budget. The annual work plan will be implemented by WMA staff provided by the County and funded as part of the shared cost.

Orange County believes the WMAs will produce better, more integrated water resources plans, and by having a more comprehensive vision and a unified voice within each WMA, will allow for more effective advocacy for funding, permits, and project completion. The WMA scale is also expected to be a more manageable geographic scale for integrated planning than some smaller watersheds or some very large regions.

The concept got a test drive in South Orange County, which is one of the WMAs, when the 23 cities and water districts in that area developed and approved an IRWMP and successfully competed for grant funding under Proposition 50. The plan that all governing boards in the region approved included a fully integrated project list ranked in numbered priority order of more than 150 projects representing a cost of more than $250 million. The projects include stream restoration, expansion or enhancement of sewage treatment plants, new urban runoff treatment plants, regional implementation of water conservation measures, new reservoirs and pipelines, and more.

Another test of the concept is occurring in the Newport Bay WMA in central Orange County, where stakeholders and the Regional Board have agreements in place already for TMDL implementation. Existing agreements already bring many diverse participants into the program and foresee regional research, monitoring, project development, and project implementation. At the moment, the power of stakeholders in such a regional collaboration to define and control priorities is being tested in the context of developing implementation plans for Newport Bay TMDLs, including measures to address toxicity.

The County is expanding its effort—and providing $500,000 of County funding--to build on its successes and to develop fully functional WMAs, with integrated plans, in the central and northern areas within the next year. The County is also incorporating the WMA concept into its Drainage Area Management Plan, which is the governing document for implementation of Orange County's two areawide municipal stormwater permits.


WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS
NORTH
CENTRAL
SOUTH
County of Los Angeles
County of San Bernardino
County of Riverside
County of San Diego
Pacific
Ocean
CALIFORNIA
AREA OF INTEREST
R8
R9
Unincorporated
LA HABRA
BREA
FULLERTON
PLACENTIA
YORBA LINDA
BUENA PARK
LA PALMA
CYPRESS
ANAHEIM
VILLA PARK
STANTON
LOS ALAMITOS
ORANGE
GARDEN GROVE
WESTMINSTER
SEAL BEACH
SANTA ANA
TUSTIN
MOUNTAIN VALLEY
HUNTINGTON BEACH
COSTA MESA
IRVINE
LAKE FOREST
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
MISSION VIEJO
NEWPORT BEACH
ALISO VIEJO
LAGUNA HILLS
LAGUNA BEACH
LAGUNA NIGUEL
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
DANA POINT
SAN CLEMENTE
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY BOARD
R8 - Santa Ana Region
R9 - San Diego Region
City Boundary
Transportation Corridor, Freeway and Major Street
Watercourses Included
River, Lake and Reservoir
COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

December 21, 2006

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Project Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***After Passage of 1E and Proposition 84***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct staff to prepare for the Energy and Environment Committee's consideration and Regional Council action a legislative proposal to authorize Proposition 1E funding for implementation of a "Delta emergency water quality protection plan" to protect Delta water quality and conveyance in the event of a natural disaster.

BACKGROUND:

Following statewide passage of two water bond measures ($4.1 and $5.3 billion for 1E and Prop. 84, respectively), the Legislature will soon go to work on the enabling legislation needed for managing the allocation of these funds. Kathy Cole, Legislative Representative for the Metropolitan Water District in Sacramento, will explain the ingredients of this legislative process, the bond provisions of special concern for southern California, the new leadership environment on water legislation, as well as the timing of these issues within a new legislative calendar.

Dennis Majors, Engineering Program Manager at MWD, will discuss current studies that model the effects of earthquakes and flooding on the Delta and emergency strategies for preventing serious water quality and water supply impacts on Southern California following a natural calamity.